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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **YONEYAMA, et al.**

Group Art Unit: 2613

Serial No.: **09/515,896**

Examiner: **VO, Tung T.**

Filed: **February 21, 2000**

For: **A VIDEO CODING APPARATUS ACCORDING TO A FEATURE OF A VIDEO PICTURE**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

FEB 06 2003 February 3, 2003

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated **October 3, 2002**, extended to **February 3, 2003** by a **one (1)** month Petition for Extension of Time, and prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 2-3 as follows:

2. (Amended) A video coding apparatus for coding a video picture by the use of motion compensatory prediction of each of video pictures with respect to sequentially input video signals, the video coding apparatus comprising:

one-way coding (P) frame interval decision means for deciding a P frame interval for carrying out motion compensatory prediction coding based on the features the input video pictures, the P frame interval inside the GOP being decided based on the decision by the P frame interval decision means.